

WTAS: Support for the Republican Study Committee's 'Maximum Pressure Act'

April 22, 2021

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo: “Proud to join @RepublicanStudy and @RepJimBanks to introduce the Maximum Pressure Act, outlining the toughest sanctions to Iran yet. Maximum pressure yields results. Weakness begets war.”

Members of Congress

House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA): “I want to thank RSC Chairman Jim Banks for his leadership, and it is especially good to see my dear friend former energy and commerce committee colleague and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo here with us. He was such a great leader during the Trump Administration, and standing up to the bullies around the world and supporting and backing our allies.”

Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ): “I first want to thank Jim Banks for the great work that he does not only on this bill but also for the Republican Study Committee. And I want to thank Secretary Pompeo for the fantastic work he did while he worked for the Trump Administration. Thank you for supporting this legislation.”

Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX): “I’d like to thank Congressman Banks and the Republican Study Committee for their leadership, for his leadership, on an important topic. This is not a partisan issue. This is about Americans being concerned about safety and security. Secretary Pompeo, thank you for your leadership, for holding Iran accountable.”

Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA): “Proud to join my colleagues in introducing the Maximum Pressure Act to prevent the Biden Administration from falling back into the Obama-era Iran Deal which gave one of our greatest adversaries access to the resources they need to support a nuclear program and terrorism.”

Rep. Bryan Steil (R-WI): “Sanctions are an effective tool to hold the Iranian Regime accountable, deter the Regime’s nuclear buildup, and weaken Iran’s leaders who are perpetuating and enabling terrorism around the world. The Biden administration’s strategy to combat Iran is concerning. Today’s action is a step towards Congress reasserting itself to end the Regime’s development of a nuclear weapon and stop its support of terrorism. I am glad to join former Secretary Mike Pompeo, Chairman Jim Banks, and my colleagues to support the needed, comprehensive Maximum Pressure Act.”

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY): “Today we were joined by @mikepompeo to push our bill to stop the Biden Admin from re-entering the Iran Deal without Congressional review, codify the Trump Administration's maximum pressure campaign & authorize new sanctions on those assisting Iran's ballistic missile program.”

Rep. Madison Cawthorne (R-NC): “At today's RSC press conference, I joined @mikepompeo and my colleagues to unveil the Maximum Pressure Act. This critical legislation would place #MaxPressure on Iran by preventing the Biden Admin from re-entry into the Iran Deal and imposes the toughest sanctions yet.”

Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY): “Today, the Republican Study Committee rolled out the Maximum Pressure Act with former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. My bipartisan proposal to require the Biden Administration to get Congressional approval before rejoining the failed Iranian Nuclear Deal is in the bill. The Maximum Pressure Act puts in place the toughest sanctions against Iran in history. The Trump team showed that economic pressure works. It is time for the U.S. to take a stand before it is too late. #MaxPressure”

Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-TN): “I'm cosponsoring the @RepublicanStudy #MaxPressure Act to maintain @mikepompeo and President Trump's successful sanctions campaign. Iran's leaders must be held accountable for nuclear & ballistic weapons programs, support for terrorism & their malign behavior.”

Rep. Mike Garcia (R-CA): “I am glad to be an original cosponsor of the Maximum Pressure Act and hold Iran accountable. We must restore the pressure on Iran that led to more countries improving their relationships with Israel and deterred Iran's development of nuclear weapons. As a former U.S. Navy Pilot, I flew combat missions in the Middle East and saw firsthand why strengthening our relationship with Israel is crucial as well as maintaining pressure on Iran. We cannot stand idle while the current administration takes actions that jeopardize our nation's security.”

Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL): “Joe Biden's dangerous reversal of Trump-era Iran policies and steps to rejoin the JCPOA only serve to put the United States on a path to future wars and set up the Middle East for more destabilizing chaos. I am honored to work with Chairman Banks and the Republican Study Committee on this legislation, which would make permanent Pompeo's maximum pressure sanctions while protecting our regional allies, like Israel.”

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO): “Pleased to join my colleagues as a cosponsor on the #MaxPressure Act, which prevents Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons & expands sanctions on Iran. We can't allow Biden to rejoin the failed Iran Nuclear Deal. Thanks to @mikepompeo for the support on this legislation. #RSC”

Rep. Kevin Hearn (R-OK): “Secretary Pompeo and President Trump's maximum pressure campaign proved to be a successful strategy. Now, Biden has reversed course and is working to re-establish the Iran Deal, opening the door to Iran developing nuclear weapons. The Trump Administration's America First policies kept Americans safe and protected our ally, Israel. I'm glad to have former Secretary Pompeo as a partner in this effort, his leadership at the State Department set the tone for the effective

foreign policy strategy of the Trump Administration and ensured that American priorities were protected around the world.”

Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX): “Trump understood the need to keep Iran under control and non-nuclear - Biden must also. Proud to stand with former Sec. @mikepompeo and many of my colleagues in support of the #MaxPressure Act, which will work to sanction and disempower this volatile regime and keep us safe.”

Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R-WI): “This legislation is an important first step in reasserting Congressional authority over negotiations with Iran during a time where we see the current administration making needless concessions to bring Iran back to the negotiating table. The United States must take a firm stance against the Iran regime’s continued pursuit of a nuclear weapons program and their funding of terrorism. We made our demands loud and clear today, I look forward to working with my colleagues closely on this priority.”

Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH): “Now is not the time for the Biden Administration to surrender to Iran’s terrorist regime and give in to their demands without any security assurances in return. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of the Maximum Pressure Act, which was introduced by Congressman Jim Banks of Indiana today. President Trump recognized that the only way you can deal with an authoritarian regime like Iran is to isolate it and maintain sanctions until they abandon their destabilizing and threatening behavior in the region. This legislation would maintain those policies, and I thank Republican Study Committee Chairman Banks for leading this effort.”

Rep. Chris Jacobs (R-NY): “Proud to join @RepublicanStudy and @mikepompeo to announce the Max Pressure Act. Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism. We must impose and maintain tough sanctions to hold them accountable, prevent the acquisition of nuclear weapons, and protect our allies. #Maxpressure”

Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH): “President Biden refuses to get tough on Iran, so today Congress took action. Pleased to join over 80 of my colleagues as a cosponsor of the #MaxPressure Act. This bill outlines the toughest sanctions on Iran to date. Thank you @mikepompeo & @RepJimBanks.”

Re. Joe Wilson (R-SC): “As Chairman of the @RepublicanStudy National Security Task Force, I’m grateful to support @RepJimBanks Max Pressure Act which includes a number of my bills and ideas on Iran & puts @POTUS on notice that conservatives in Congress will work to reimpose any sanctions relief for Iran.”

Rep. Scott Franklin (R-FL): “I was proud to join my @RepublicanStudy colleagues and Former Secretary of State Pompeo to roll out the #MaxPressure Act, which will help the U.S. regain a position of strength when dealing with Iran.”

Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX): “Iran is the top state sponsor of terrorism & seeks 'Death to America' & the destruction of Israel, one of our greatest allies. Rep. Roy is proud to support @RepJimBanks' #MaxPressure Act to ensure that sanctions on Iran will continue until the regime ends its destructive behavior.”

Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK): “I am proud to join over 80 of my @RepublicanStudy colleagues in supporting @RepJimBanks’ #MaxPressure Act which will impose strict sanctions on Iran and prevent re-entry into the disastrous Iran deal. If @POTUS refuses to #GetTough on foreign policy, @HouseGOP will.”

Rep. Lisa McClain (R-MI): “Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. We must maintain #MaxPressure and solidify into law the sanctions President Trump instated. I joined @RepublicanStudy & @mikepompeo to discuss legislation I proudly contributed to, which is imperative to our nation's security.”

Rep. French Hill (R-AR): “I joined former Secretary @mikepompeo & my colleagues to support the Max Pressure Act. The bill would continue the Trump Administration’s max pressure strategy on Iran & specifically prohibit Iran from accessing SDR funding from the @IMFNews - an issue I’ve long championed.”

Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS): “It was great to join former Secretary @mikepompeo and the @RepublicanStudy for the rollout of #MaxPressure. Congress needs to be part of the conversation and America needs to continue the maximum pressure campaign on Iran. Glad to be a supporter of this legislation.”

Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA): “Pres. Biden has proven to be weak on Iran, attempting the same failed appeasement strategy as Pres. Obama & working to bring back the disastrous Iran Deal. I'm proud to support @RepJimBanks' #MaxPressure Act, which would expand & codify tough sanctions on Iran.”

Rep. Jerry Carl (R-AL): “Proud to join my @RepublicanStudy colleagues and Former Sec. @mikepompeo on the Maximum Pressure Act. This important legislation gives Congress the power to prevent the Biden admin from re-joining the terrible Iran Nuclear Deal & enhances the max pressure campaign against Iran.”

Rep. Bob Good (R-VA): “Proud to join my @RepublicanStudy colleagues and Secretary @mikepompeo in fighting back and reasserting the proven Trump strategy toward Iran. #MaxPressure.”

Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R-ND): “We have to maintain a long-term strategy to deal with Iran and support our allies. That’s why I support @RepublicanStudy efforts to keep up the #MaxPressure campaign.”

Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL): “My @RepublicanStudy colleagues and I joined Former Sec. Pompeo to introduce the Maximum Pressure Act. This bill empowers Congress to stop the Biden admin from re-entering the Iran Deal, codifies max pressure, and expands Iran sanctions. #MaximumPressure”

Praise for the ‘Maximum Pressure Act’ from thought leaders and outside groups

Mark Dubowitz, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Defense of Democracies: “This is a clear message to the market. Republicans are united in opposing sanctions relief for the regime in Iran. You

risk severe legal, reputational and political consequences if you do business with the world's leading state-sponsor of terrorism and WMD proliferation”

Senator Norm Coleman, National Chairman, Republican Jewish Coalition: "To address the Iranian threat in all its dimensions, we need a much better deal than the failed JCPOA that the Biden administration is trying to revive. The Max Pressure Act is based on the key insight that the only way the dangerous Tehran regime will end its pursuit of nuclear weapons capability and its other malign activities is if the U.S. is relentless and resolute in using every tool at our disposal to force compliance with international norms and treaty obligations."

Sandra Parker, Chairwoman, CUFI Action Fund: “The common sense ideas in this legislation should be advanced without delay. As the introduction of this legislation shows, any failure to secure bipartisan consensus for a future deal with Iran means the deal will have a short shelf life. Any company eyeing a return to business as usual with Iran should think twice at the cost of doing so before a comprehensive agreement, that enjoys widespread support in Congress, is reached.”

Gabriel Noronha, former State Department Special Advisor on Iran: “This legislation sends a strong message to the Iranian regime that Congress is opposed to sanctions relief unless Iran fundamentally changes its behavior. President Biden needs to embrace the success of the Maximum Pressure campaign - not undermine U.S. leverage by failing to enforce sanctions mandated by Congress.”

Michael Pregent, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute: “The Biden Administration has all the leverage the U.S. will not have again with Iran. Now is not the time to cede that leverage to Iran through intermediaries and rivals Russia and China - the two countries that have the most to gain if the U.S. lifts sanctions on Iran. The JCPOA is already expiring and completely expires in 2030 - in nine short years. The arms embargo expired, ballistic missile restrictions expire in 2023, and sunsets on uranium production and advanced centrifuges begin to expire in 2024. Now is the time to dictate to the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Russia, and China what the U.S. terms are going forward on nuclear talks, ballistic missiles, and regional behavior. The U.S. has all the leverage it will never have again.”

Behnam Ben Taleblu, Senior Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies: “I would consider this legislation to be the beginnings of a more cohesive Congressional ‘ground-game’ on Iran led by the RSC. The range of diverse sanctions options discussed in the bill should serve as a reminder that the U.S. has more room to grow its peaceful pressure policy, rather than trade it away for limited concessions at the negotiating table.”

National Union for Democracy in Iran: “The Islamic Republic in Iran is a threat to both American national security and the basic human rights and dignity of the Iranian people. No one knows the vicious duality of this threat better than Iranian-Americans. That is why as an organization of Iranian-Americans supporting human rights and democracy in Iran, NUFDI supports the RSC’s move to enhance and codify pressure on the criminal regime in Tehran while standing in solidarity with the Iranian people and boldly defending human rights. Holding the regime to account and supporting the Iranian people should not be partisan issues- they should be principles of American policy.”

News coverage

[Fox News – Mike Pompeo joins House Republicans in push for Iran sanctions bill](#)

[Washington Post – U.S. provides Iran with examples of sanctions it will and will not lift](#)

[New York Post -- Pompeo meets with House Republicans to unveil new legislation targeting Iran](#)

[The Hill – Pompeo joins GOP lawmakers on Capitol Hill to introduce Iran sanctions act](#)

[The Hill – Pompeo visits Hill to support GOP push for Iran sanctions](#)

[Jewish Insider – 83 House Republicans announce legislation to strengthen Iran sanctions alongside Mike Pompeo](#)

[POLITICO – Pomp’ing up Iran messaging](#)

[McClatchy – Pompeo touts bill to limit Biden on Iran](#)

[Newsmax -- Republicans Unveil Bill Supporting Sanctions on Iran](#)

[SaraCarter.com – GOP lawmakers introduce bill pushing back on Biden’s Iran policy](#)

[Townhall – Republican Study Committee and Mike Pompeo Team Up to Lobby for ‘Maximum Pressure’ Sanctions on Iran](#)

[Law360 – GOP lawmakers introduce bill to ramp up sanctions on Iran](#)